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SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph on lines 31-33 of page 4 with the following paragraph: --

Fig._1 depicts a schematic outline of an assembly for carrying out the automated forge welding method according to the invention.--

Please replace the consecutive paragraphs starting on line 18 and ending on line 29 of page 5 with the following paragraphs: --

Fig._8 shows a longitudinal section view of a spear which is inserted into a pair of forge welded tubulars and which carries ring shaped assemblies of EMAT transmitters and receivers at each side of the weld.

Fig._9 shows a longitudinal sectional view of a weld between tubulars through which an ultrasonic signal is transmitted.

Fig._10a-e show a three-dimensional view of an EMAT transmitter and receiver assembly and how the acoustic signal is transmitted into the tubular wall.

Fig._11 shows various suitable configurations of the EMAT transmitter and receiver assemblies.--

Please replace the paragraph on lines 23-26 of page 6 with the following paragraph: --

Fig._20 is a schematic cross-sectional view of an external shield gas chamber in which a cold fluid is injected during the cool down phase after a forge welding operation.-

Please replace the paragraph on lines 23-24 of page 7 with the following paragraph: --

Fig. 28 is an enlarged longitudinal section view of the prepared and mated ends and marker shown in Fig._27.--

Please replace the paragraph starting on line 30 of page 7 with the following paragraph: --

As shown in Fig._1 the positions of the tubular ends 3 and 4 that are to be forge welded together are monitored by cameras 1 and 2 which are coupled to a camera signal processor 5 which automatically controls a gripping assembly 6, such that the spacing S between the heated tubular ends 3A and 4A is well defined during the heat up phase and